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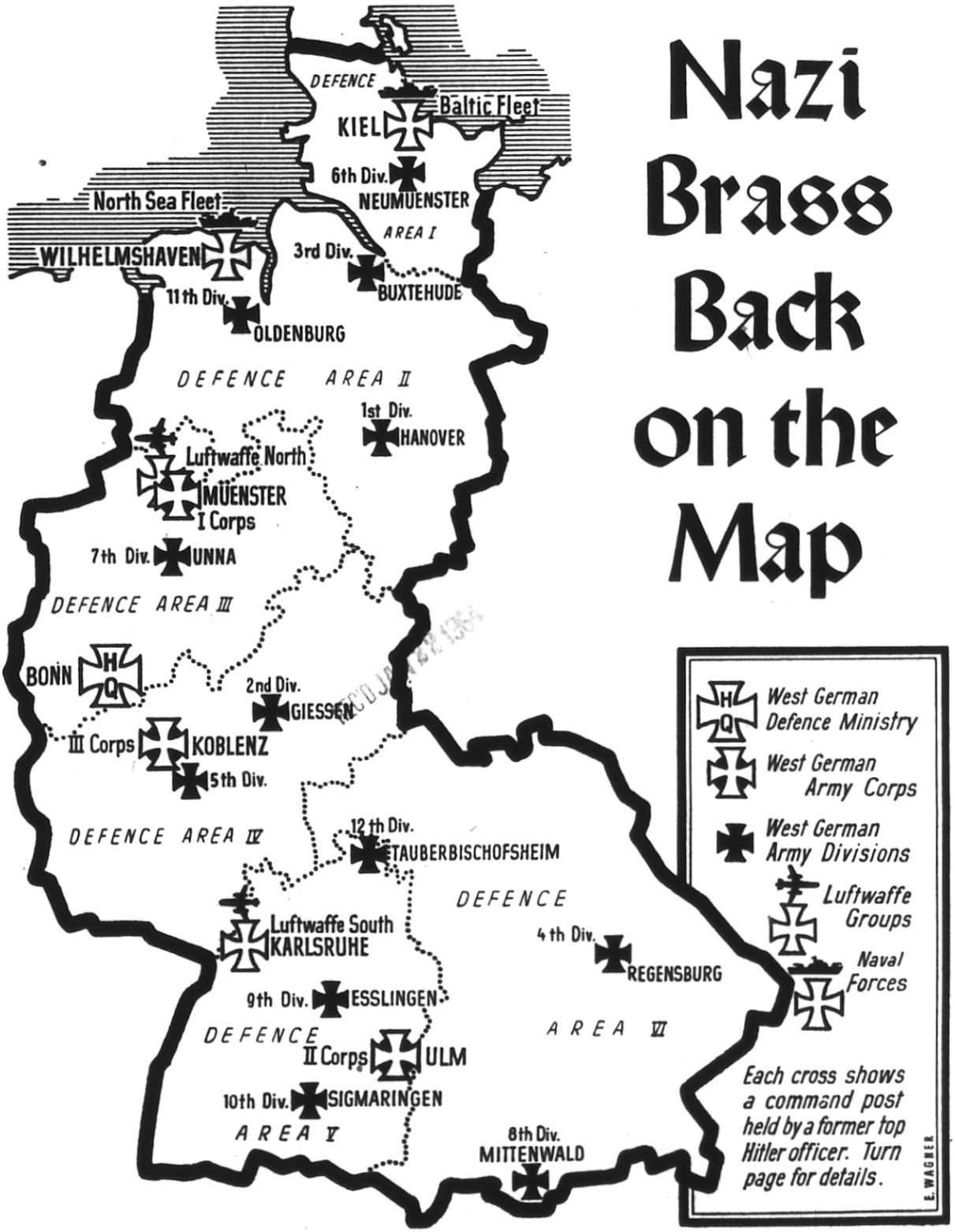
Nazi Brass Back on the Map



Hitler Went – His Generals Remain

Over twenty years ago, Hitler's forces, proudly bearing the Iron Cross as their symbol along with the swastika, swept across Europe.

Today, the officers who commanded Hitler's forces hold all key posts in the new West German Bundeswehr, and their planes, their tanks, their guns – and their rockets – are again marked with the Iron Cross.

Every Iron Cross symbol on our front-page map shows a command post held today by a man who was at least a Colonel in the nazi forces. On the following pages we give some details of their careers.

Not a single one of these commanders made any effective opposition to Hitler's reign of terror, though two or three were imprisoned for a short time on suspicion of complicity in the 1944 bomb-plot, when some German militarists tried to make peace with the western powers in order to continue the war against the Soviet Union.

This listing repays study: it includes two convicted war criminals; 4 officers who fought for Franco in the Spanish civil war; and at least 15 leading officers who held posts on the nazi General Staff.

1. Top Brass

General Adolf Heusinger, highest West German officer; Chairman of NATO Standing Military Committee in Washington, D. C.

Chief of Operations in Hitler's General Staff, helped plan most nazi invasions. Lieutenant General at end of war. Soviet Union applied for his extradition as war criminal in December 1961.

General Hans Speidel, second highest West German officer; Commander of NATO Land Forces in Central Europe.

Chief of nazi General Staff in Occupied France and implicated in the deportation and shooting of thousands of partisans, Jews, and other civilian hostages. Later Chief of the 8th Army General Staff on Eastern Front. Knight's Cross. Lieutenant General at end of war.

General Friedrich Foertsch, Inspector General (commander) of the West German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr).

Chief of General Staff of Wehrmacht units on Leningrad front. Knight's Cross. Lieutenant General at end of war. Served 10 years of 25 year sentence as war criminal.

Lieutenant General Alfred Zerbel, Inspector (commander) of the West German Army.

Instructor at nazi Military Academy, Dresden. General Staff Officer of an infantry division on Eastern Front, later head of Training Department in Army General Staff. Colonel at end of war.

Major General Werner Panitzki, Inspector (commander) of the West German Luftwaffe.

General Staff officer in invasion of Poland. Later Group Captain in a fighter squadron protecting nazi bombers over Britain. Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he held a top position on Goering's Luftwaffe General Staff until end of the war.

Vice-Admiral Karl-Adolf Zenker, Inspector (commander) of the West German Navy.

Studied at the Military Academy. Staff Officer for mine warfare in the North Sea at the beginning of the war. He helped plan the invasions of Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands in the Admiralty Staff, and later took part in the invasions. Naval Captain at end of war.

On January 16th 1956 he stated: "All of us old marine men who served under Grand Admirals Raeder and Doenitz know ... that no stain rests on the character of our former commanders ... The sentence (as war criminals) pronounced against them by the victors was a result of the atmosphere at the end of the war with all its confusion."

Flotilla Admiral Karl Smidt, Commander, West German Fleet.

Officer on nazi warship "Deutschland", which intervened in Spanish Civil War by bombarding the Spanish Republican port of Almeria on May 31st 1937.

Commanded the destroyer "Erich Giese" in mining operations on the British east coast. Helped to seize Narvik in Norway. Later Chief of the Officer Personnel Department of North Sea Command. Awarded the Knight's Cross, the German Cross in Gold, the Bronze Spain Cross with Swords, the Spanish Marine Merit Cross in Silver and the Italian Officer's Cross of the Order of the Crown. Naval Captain at end of war.

Lieutenant General Joachim Schwatlo-Gesterding, Commander, Territorial Forces.

Trained as General Staff officer. Took part in the attack on Poland and West Europe as a General Staff officer in the 4th Army. Promoted to the Press and Propaganda Department of Wehrmacht High Command. Later Major General and divisional commander on Eastern Front. Awarded German Cross in Gold.

Sentenced to 10 years prison for war crimes committed in the Soviet Union. The Territorial Forces he commands are completely independent of NATO. They are divided into six territorial Defence Areas.

2. Corps Commanders

Lieutenant General Heinrich Trettner, Commander, 1st Corps.

As 1st General Staff Officer of airborne troops, took part in blitzkrieg against Holland and Belgium; Chief of General Staff of the 11th Air Corps in seizure of Crete. Also fought on Eastern Front and at Anzio, Italy. Awarded Oak Leaves to Knight's Cross. Lieutenant General at end of war.

Lieutenant General Leo Hepp, Commander, 2nd Corps.

Instructor at nazi Military Academy. Chief of General Staff of 5th Army which laid waste the Ukraine. Colonel at end of war.

Major General Heinrich Gaedcke, Commander, 3rd Corps.

Instructor at nazi Military Academy. Worked under Heusinger in Operations Department of General Staff. Later Chief of General Staff of Army Corps on Eastern Front. Awarded Knight's Cross. Major General at end of war.

3. Divisional Commanders

Brigadier General Wilhelm Meyer-Detring, Commander, 1st Panzer Grenadier Division.

1st General Staff Officer of 137th Infantry Division on Eastern Front. Colonel on Army General Staff at end of war.

Brigadier General Claus Mueller, Commander, 2nd Panzer Grenadier Division.

Studied at nazi Military Academy. Commander of a Panzer unit on Eastern Front. Awarded Knight's Cross. Promoted to Colonel on April 20th 1945.

Brigadier General Hans-Georg von Tempelhoff, Commander, 3rd Panzer Division.

Instructor at nazi Military Academy. Helped plan and carry out attacks on Poland and France as General Staff officer in 7th Army Corps, later on Eastern Front. Colonel at end of war.

Lieutenant General Friedrich Übelhack, Commander, 4th Panzer Grenadier Division.

Artillery officer in attacks on Poland, France and the Soviet Union. Organized nazi retreat in Finland, burning everything in his path. Awarded German Cross in Gold. Became 1st General Staff Officer of the Wehrmacht Commander in Norway and led in fight against Norwegian resistance. Colonel in General Staff in January 1945.

In September 1959 General Übelhack called for rehabilitation of the Waffen SS (a group stamped war criminals at the Nuremberg Trials), whom he called "a regular and courageous troop unit".

Major General Albert Schnez, Commander, 5th Panzer Division.

General Staff training. Organised the transportation system of fascist-ruled Rumania and then, on General Kesselring's staff, organised the railway system in nazi-occupied Italy. Promoted to Colonel on April 20th 1945.

Brigadier General Werner Haag, Commander, 6th Panzer Grenadier Division.

Took part in the invasion of Poland and other countries as Wehrmacht officer. Colonel at end of war.

Major General Willi Mantey, Commander, 7th Panzer Grenadier Division.

Artillery major during attack on Poland, 1st General Staff Officer of an infantry division on the Eastern Front. Colonel at end of war.

Major General Karl-Heinz Wirsing, Commander, 8th Division (1st Mountain Troops Division).

After general staff commands in a number of army corps, promoted to Colonel on the Army General Staff on May 1st 1944.

Abolished?

"The purposes of the occupation of Germany are ... the complete disarmament and demilitarisation of Germany. To these ends, all German land, naval, and air forces ... including the General Staff, the Officers' Corps ... shall be completely and finally abolished."

Potsdam Agreement, August 2nd 1945

Brigadier General Walter Gericke, Commander, 9th Division (1st Airborne Division).

Parachute officer, fought in Poland, Denmark, Holland, Norway. Helped seize Crete as a battalion commander, then fought on Eastern Front. 1943 in Italy, at Anzio Beachhead, commanding special unit called "Kampfgruppe Gericke", later in Holland. Awards include the Knight's Cross for Crete, Mussolini's Italian Valour Medal, the German Cross in Gold, and the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves.

Author of post-war book glorifying the nazi parachute troops.

Major General Johann-Adolf von Kielmannsegg, Commander, 10th Panzer Grenadier Division.

Studied at nazi Military Academy. 1st General Staff Officer of the 1st Panzer Division in attacks on Poland, Luxembourg and France. In 1944 a Colonel, became General Staff Officer in the Operations Department of the Army High Command. Arrested in July 1944 after Hitler bomb plot, but released and given new command.

In his book "Tanks Between Warsaw and the Atlantic", published by the nazis in 1941, Kielmannsegg wrote:

"We have fulfilled the duty assigned us by History, Germany and the Fuehrer: we report that we are ready to fulfil our only remaining duty — the destruction of England!"

Brigadier General Cord von Hobe, Commander, 11th Panzer Grenadier Division.

General Staff training. Divisional General Staff officer in invasions of France, Belgium and Holland, 1st General Staff officer of the "Greater Germany" Division in its attack on the Soviet Union. Suspended in 1944 after the bomb attempt on Hitler, but soon rehabilitated and made commander of 79th Division, which sacrificed thousands of teen-agers and older men at the end of the war. Promoted to Colonel and awarded Knight's Cross on May 1st 1945.

In a famous West German trial in June 1960, von Hobe testified in defence of SS officers who, in the last few days of the war, had hanged civilians who wanted to end the fighting. "The civilian population only comes second. The troops come first," Hobe stated.

Brigadier General Kurt von Einem, Commander, 12th Panzer Division.

Trained as General Staff officer. A major in the invasion of France, he took part in invasion of Soviet Union as General Staff officer of an infantry division. Awarded German Cross in Gold. Colonel at end of war.

4. *Luftwaffe Commanders*

Major General Eugen Walter, Commander, Northern Luftwaffe Group.

General Staff training. Worked in Flak Department of Goering's Aviation Ministry and then in the Organisation Department of the Luftwaffe General Staff. In 1941 transferred to Eastern Front. Later Commander of a V-1 Division bombarding Britain. Colonel at end of war.

Major General Hannes Trautloft, Commander, Southern Luftwaffe Group.

One of the first 6 nazi volunteer pilots to go to Spain in the "Condor Legion" in July 1936. Awarded the "Spain Cross in Gold" for bombing Madrid. In his book "Fighter Pilot in Spain" he wrote: "We can fight, and that is enough, that satisfies us completely. Here, it seems, the age-old instincts of the hunter, long buried, have suddenly broken through again. We have found our way back to the beginnings of manhood, a sign that the days of our white race are by no means at an end ... we have returned to barbarism." He later flew against Poland, France and Soviet Union. Awarded Knight's Cross. Colonel at end of war.

In 1956 he helped form an organisation of "Condor Legion" veterans, stating: "The activity of the 'Condor Legion' in Spain must serve as a good example for the youth of the Federal Republic."

5. *Naval Commanders*

Vice Admiral Gerhard Wagner, Commander, Baltic Sea Fleet and Commander of NATO Naval Forces in Baltic Approaches (with Danish and West German forces).

In 1919, officer of reactionary "Freikorps" which suppressed Spartacus rising in Berlin.

In 1936, member of German-Italian military mission in Spain, organising fascist aid to Franco.

In 1940 Chief of the Operations Department of the Naval Warfare Leadership, helped plan all nazi na-

val operations. Promoted to Rear Admiral in 1943 and awarded the German Cross in Gold.

(Vice - Admiral Wagner, retiring next year, will be replaced by Flotilla Admiral Wegner, another leading Hitler officer.)

Flotilla Admiral Hubert Baron von Wangenheim, Commander, North Sea Fleet.

Commanded a torpedo boat for Franco during the Spanish Civil War. In 1939 and 1940, commanded the destroyer "Hans Lody" in the North Sea. Later 1st Admiralty Staff Officer on North Sea destroyer staff. Awarded the German Cross in Gold. At end of the war, Chief of the 4th Destroyer Flotilla in the Baltic, with rank of Naval Captain.

(Flotilla Admiral Wangenheim, retiring in 1963, will be replaced by Flotilla Admiral Heinrich Erdmann, former top nazi officer.)

6. *Area Commanders*

Flotilla Admiral Hans-Rudolf Roesing, Commander, Defence Area I (Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg).

Sank seven merchant vessels during the Battle of Britain as U-boat captain, then became commander of a flotilla. From 1943 till the end of the war, Roesing, a Naval Captain, was "Fuehrer of U-Boats in the West", responsible for all Channel and Atlantic U-boat operations.

Major General Christian Mueller, Commander, Defence Area II (Lower Saxony, Bremen).

Studied at nazi Military Academy. After fighting in Poland and the western blitzkrieg operations, he joined the General Staff of the Army High Command in Occupied Norway. In 1943 he was 1st General Staff officer of a panzer army in the Soviet Union, where he took part in the Battle of Stalingrad. Colonel at end of war.

Major General Guenther Pape, Commander, Defence Area III (North Rhine-Westfalia).

Commander of motorcycle troops during the invasions of Poland and the Soviet Union. Knight's Cross and later the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves. Major General and commander of panzer division at end of war.

Major General Ottomar Hansen, Commander, Defence Area IV (Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate).

Trained as General Staff Officer. Became Adjutant to Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command during the Poland campaign, commander of a battalion invading France in 1940 and commander of a panzer grenadier regiment on the Eastern Front. Later Department Chief in the Army Personnel Department. Awarded German Cross in Gold. Promoted to Major General on April 20th 1945.

Brigadier General Otto Lechler, Commander, Defence Area V (Baden-Wuerttemberg).

Instructor at nazi Military Academy. Served mainly in General Staff posts during the war. Lieutenant Colonel at end of war.

Brigadier General Wilhelm Hess, Commander, Defence Area VI (Bavaria).

Instructor at nazi Military Academy, joined General Staff in December 1939. Fought in the Soviet Union, Finland and Norway. Colonel at end of war.

. . . and what about the other German army?

Biographical details on the top commanders of the People's Army of the German Democratic Republic give a completely different picture from that given by the biographies of the commanders of the West German Wehrmacht. 14 of the generals of the People's Army fought in the ranks of the resistance movement inside Germany, in France, Slovakia and other countries; 8 of them were "Volunteers for Liberty" in the International Brigades in Spain; 7 of them were tortured in Hitler's concentration camps and prisons.

Here are short biographical details on the six top-ranking generals today:

General Heinz Hoffmann

General Hoffmann, 52, metal worker by trade, was active in the worker's movement before Hitler came to power, and fought in the underground in the first years of the nazi era. He later escaped from Germany and went to Spain, where he was an officer in the 11th International Brigade.

When the People's Army was formed in 1956 he was appointed First Deputy Defence Minister, and became Defence Minister in 1961.

Admiral Waldemar Verner

Admiral Verner, 48, is an interior decorator by trade. During the first seven years of the nazi period he was active in the underground resistance movement. In 1940 he escaped to Denmark, where he became an active member of the Danish resistance movement.

He joined the People's Army on its formation, and was promoted to Admiral in 1961. He is Deputy Defence Minister.

Lieutenant General Heinz Kessler

General Kessler, 42, learned the trade of a metal worker. In 1941 he was conscripted into the nazi Wehrmacht. Immediately upon his arrival on the Eastern Front he deserted to the Red Army, and fought actively against German fascism. He was one of the founders of the National Committee Free Germany, an organisation which did dangerous front-line work against the nazis.

Immediately after the war he returned to Berlin, where he played a big part in building the Free German Youth movement. He is today head of the GDR Air Force and Air Defence system.

Major General Sigfrid Riedel

General Riedel, 44, was active in the workers' movement before the nazis took over. During the war he was conscripted into the nazi Wehrmacht, in which he served in the ranks. After the war he helped to build up the People's Police force in East Germany.

Lieutenant General Kurt Wagner

General Wagner, 58, was active in the workers' movement before the nazis took over. After 1933 he fought in the underground. In 1935 he was arrested by the Gestapo, sentenced to 10 years hard labour, and spent the remainder of the nazi period in prison.

After his release at the end of the war he played an active part in building the GDR, and has been general of the People's Army since its formation in 1956.

Major General Friedrich Dickel

General Dickel, 49, worker by trade, was active in the workers' movement before the nazi era. In 1936 he made his way to Spain where he served in the 11th International Brigade.

After the war he helped to build the People's Police force in East Germany.

Compromise on German Problems?

Leading political figures of the German Democratic Republic suggested in speeches and articles in early December that the time had come for "compromises on both sides" in an attempt to solve the pressing German problem.

In a speech published on December 5th, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, stated:

"Under the conditions of the hard clash between two world systems, it is necessary to prevent war with the aid of peaceful co-existence. This calls for the readiness to clarify dangerous questions at issue by means of negotiations, and to reach agreements. It is not enough simply to speak of peaceful co-existence. Peaceful co-existence is linked with compromises on both sides...

"The conflict in the Caribbean Sea should lead both the German states to the conclusion that they should renounce all atomic weapons... A similar conflict in Europe can be reduced by the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO states."

Walter Ulbricht appealed to the Bonn government to open negotiations with the GDR, which would gradually bring about a normalisation of the relations between the two German states.

On December 12th, "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party of the GDR, published an exhaustive article "A Compromise in the Interests of Peace and Socialism", signed by editor Hermann Axen. After analysing the course of the Cuba crisis in October, the article stated:

"Are compromises permissible between the working class and the bourgeoisie, between socialism and imperialism? Leninism and history teach us that compromises are not only possible but also necessary, both before the working class takes power, and afterwards...

"Events in the Caribbean have important lessons for the people of both German states. Such a sharpening of tension, and such a growth of the war danger is conceivable in all dangerous centres of crisis. This applies particularly to West Germany and West Berlin, where the dangerous policy of revenge of the West German militarists has repeatedly led to a perilous sharpening of the situation...

"The basis for conflict in Central Europe is provided by the presence of left-overs of the Second World War; by the lack of a peace treaty with Germany; by the existence of a NATO base, contrary to international law, in West Berlin; and by the policy of armament and revenge of the West German militarists."

Editor Axen then pointed out that the Bonn militarists had been the keenest supporters of the USA during the Cuba crisis, and continued:

"As so often in the past, the German militarists judged the developments completely falsely...

"The German Democratic Republic has declared its readiness for compromise in the interests of making peace secure, solving the West Berlin question, and establishing normal relations between the two German states. It is well known that the proposals made by the governments of the GDR and the Soviet Union on the West Berlin question include compromises... The struggle for peaceful co-existence between the two German states and for a peace treaty inevitably demands compromises which accord with the relations of strength and the interests of peace and reason."

Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchov also referred to the possibilities of compromise in a speech in Moscow on December 12th. The problem of Germany and West Berlin must be solved, otherwise it would be easy to slide into a new and even more dangerous international crisis, he stated.

"The Soviet Union is ready to take into account the position of the other parties to the negotiations," he said. "The main point at dispute is the question of the capacity in which troops should be stationed in West Berlin; under what flag should they serve, and how long should they stay there?

"The Soviet Union suggests that the troops stationed in West Berlin should not represent the NATO countries; the NATO flag in West Berlin should be replaced by the flag of the United Nations, and the UN should take over certain international pledges and functions in West Berlin.

"I should like to stress that it would be an error for anyone in the West to hope that the Soviet Union will abandon its determination to conclude a German peace treaty, and normalise the situation in West Berlin on this basis. We are in favour of negotiations with the Western Powers, but patience has an end. Even if the Western Powers should not agree to the signature of such a treaty, it will be signed."

VVN Trial May Be Dropped

The West German authorities were considering in mid-December whether they should drop their efforts to ban the VVN, the West German Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime.

This surprising change in the situation resulted from the world-wide protests against the attempts to outlaw the organisation. The protests redoubled at the end of November, when it was disclosed that the Presiding Judge of the West German Federal Administrative Court, Dr Fritz Werner, had been a member of the Nazi Party and Hitler's Storm Troops.

After adjourning the trial, the court announced on December 7th that it had requested the West German Government to reconsider its decision to prosecute the VVN, since there appeared to be some doubt as to whether such a step was constitutionally possible.

The Swiss newspaper "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", generally very well informed on Bonn affairs, stated on December 7th: "It appears possible that the trial will be adjourned indefinitely, and then be quietly cancelled. This would, of course, mean a full retreat. However the controversy on the VVN trial may end, a public debate upon the (West) German judicial system appears unavoidable."

The London "New Statesman" stated on December 7th: "To put the VVN on trial seems to be in bad taste, but then to go further and appoint as the trial judge a former member of the Nazi Party and Storm Trooper, Professor Fritz Werner, is almost beyond belief. The West German government argues that Werner is an all-party nominee. They might have argued further that they hoped no one would notice; or, perhaps, that if they were to ban all ex-Nazi Party members, where would they find judges? Surely if Dr Adenauer wants to punish the representatives of those who suffered in the concentration camps he can find somewhere in his Reich one single judge to try their guilt who has not himself been a Nazi."

New-Old Cabinet in Bonn

After a government crisis which had lasted more than six weeks, West German Chancellor Adenauer finally managed to patch together a new cabinet on December 11th. The crisis started at the end of October when West German police, inspired by Defence Minister Franz-Jösef Strauss, raided the magazine "Spiegel".

The new cabinet consists, like the previous one, of a coalition between the Christian Democratic Union (CDU); the Christian Social Union (CSU), Bavarian twin of the CDU; and the Free Democratic Party (FDP). Seven ministers have been replaced, the only one of key importance being Defence Minister Strauss. The majority of the new ministers are back-bench MPs, who are expected to fall into line with all of Adenauer's policies without protest.

The negotiations leading to the formation of the new cabinet were marked by a series of feuds and tricks which reached an intensity unusual even in the political jungle of Bonn. Adenauer's biggest coup was to offer many cabinet posts to the Social Democratic Party (SPD), which has been in opposition ever since the foundation of the West German state in 1949. When SPD politicians grabbed eagerly at the chance of office, Adenauer quickly whipped the rug from beneath their feet, and returned to his old coalition with the FDP, leaders of which had been scared into agreement by the spectre of a CDU-SPD line-up depriving them of cabinet posts. The CDU-SPD coalition negotiations led to a minor revolt of SPD members, who could not stomach the idea of their party joining an Adenauer Government.

Nearly all political observers in Bonn predicted that the new Adenauer cabinet would not last long, and that it would continue with present West German policies.

Here are short biographical notes on new members of the cabinet:

Kai-Uwe von Hassel, CDU, Defence Minister.

Herr von Hassel, 49, is not at present a member of the West German Parliament. He has been, since 1954, Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein; in this position he has been involved in a whole series of scandals involving high local government officials who have been unmasked as nazi war criminals. He was born in German East Africa, today Tanganyika, where his father was officer in the Kaiser's colonial army. He worked there as a plantation manager 1935—39. He served throughout the war as a nazi officer.

Bruno Heck, CDU, Family Minister.

Herr Heck, 45, organised the CDU election campaign in 1953 and 1957, and has been a back-bench MP since 1957. He served as an officer in the nazi Wehrmacht.

Alois Niederalt, CSU, Upper House Affairs.

Herr Niederalt, 52, has been MP since 1953. Before the war he occupied a minor post in the nazi local government service as "Badekommissar" (Spa Commissar) in Bavaria. He served as an officer in the nazi Wehrmacht.

Ewald Bucher, FDP, Justice Minister.

Herr Bucher, 48, has been MP since 1953. Former Nazi Party member. After studying law, he worked as a minor nazi official until volunteering for the Wehrmacht, where he served on the eastern and western fronts.

Rolf Dahlgrün, FDP, Finance Minister.

Herr Dahlgrün, 54, has been MP since 1957. After studying law, he worked as legal adviser to one of the largest rubber works which made millions from nazi war contracts.

Werner Dollinger, CSU, Treasury Minister.

Herr Dollinger, 44, has been MP since 1953. Officer in the nazi Wehrmacht 1943—45.

Rainer Barzel, CDU, All-German Questions.

Herr Barzel, 38, is the youngest member of the cabinet. He has been MP since 1957. Officer in the nazi Wehrmacht.

LISTEN TO BERLIN

Radio Berlin International, the Voice of the German Democratic Republic, can be heard in English at 264 metres (1133 kcs) on the medium waveband every evening at 6:45 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. GMT.

Shortwave programmes in English for western Europe can be heard daily at 4:30 and 6:45 p.m. at 49.34, 49.06 and 41.10 metres and at 9:00 p.m. at 49.34, 41.10 and 30.83 metres.

North America

8:00 and 9:00 p.m. EST on 49.34 metres (6080 kcs).

West Africa

6:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. GMT over short wave at 25.44 metres and 12:30 noon at 16.77 metres.

Du Pont in West Germany

Du Pont de Nemours, largest American chemical monopoly, has bought up a group of West German photo supply factories and increased its toehold in the chemical industry. Last year it started its penetration of West Germany by purchasing a synthetic fibre plant. The new branch of the big American concern will protect it from any loss of profits due to new "Common Market" customs restrictions on its American-made products.

Du Pont worked closely before the war with the huge IG Farben firm which helped build up Hitler. According to testimony before an American government investigation, Du Pont decided to cease exchanging information in April 1941 with IG Farben "until the present emergency has passed" with "all other obligations in the contracts to remain as at present"

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"White Supermen" in West Germany's Geography Books

An analysis of West German geography books shows that they are filled with echoes of nazi racialist teachings, particularly in their attitude towards the people of Africa. In a number of cases, the authors are the same as those who wrote the geography text-books for the nazis.

Here are a few examples:

"As a result of his higher culture, and his Christianity, the white man has a special mission: to educate the natives. Judged by European standards, the Negro is a bad worker. He has no idea of regular work. This is a result of his education hitherto, and his mode of thought."

("Afrika in Stundenbildern" by Karl Müller, published by Moritz Diesterweg, Frankfurt/Main, 1960)

"Without the whites, the Negroes would not be capable of improving their standard of living."

("Länder und Völker", Vol 3, Published by Ernst Klett, Stuttgart, 1960)

"Here is what you must know about Africa: European settlers and plantations opened up the continent ... European missionaries tamed the wild Negroes, brought them the great message of Christ's Kingdom, and taught them Christian neighbourliness."

("Erdkunde" Vol 2, published by Prägel Verlag, Ansbach, 1959)

"For centuries the habits and customs of the inhabitants of the West African jungle have been preserved: they have only become somewhat milder with the passage of time. The cruelties which were once usual are today sternly punished if the white overseers learn of them. Despite this there are still frightful outrages, regressions to the old times."

("Von Erdteil zu Erdteil", published by Moritz Diesterweg, Frankfurt/Main, 1959)

"Negroes do not like to work; they find it hard to believe that in Europe there are people who do anything voluntarily ... The Negro only works because the white man pays him for doing so."

("Erdkunde für höhere Schulen," Vol 2, by Wilhelm Grotelüschen, published by Moritz Diesterweg, Frankfurt/Main, 1958)

"The chief tells the members of the tribe what to do. The men go out with the chief. Waddling along, with their feet turned in, they glide along ... (When they return) the results of the hunt are seen. Roots, fruit, caterpillars, frogs, tortoises, locusts, even snakes and lizards ... Soon the meal is ready. Smacking their lips and licking their fingers like apes, they sit round the fire, greedily gulping it down ..."

("Länder und Völker" Vol 3, published by Ernst Klett, Stuttgart, 1960)

"1. Which African areas are particularly suitable for settlement by white men?

2. Where do Europeans already live in Africa in large numbers?

3. Where would you like to settle as colonist in Africa?

4. Name the influence of climate on the possibility of European settlement.

5. What advantages does a colony bring for the motherland?"

("Länder und Völker", Vol 3, published by Ernst Klett, Stuttgart, 1960)

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The extracts given above are typical of the whole tone of many of the geography text-books used in West German schools. Many of the illustrations are also discriminatory; the book by Professor Wilhelm Grotelüschen, quoted above, shows many "quaint" pictures of naked Africans, and then, as a contrast, a picture captioned "Negro in Collar and Tie". During the Hitler period Professor Grotelüschen published a series of articles in nazi magazines urging the propagation in all schools of "colonialist ways of thinking" ("Zeitschrift für Erdkunde", No. 17/18 1936)

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Footnote:

The history and geography books of the German Democratic Republic lay great stress on the crimes committed in Africa by the colonialists, including the German colonialists before 1914, and give a full account of the liberation struggle of the people of Africa.

"All Quiet" Author on W. Germany

It is impossible to understand why old nazi criminals are back at the top in West Germany today, Erich Maria Remarque, famed author of "All Quiet on the Western Front", stated in an interview published in the West German newspaper "Die Welt" on December 1st.

Here are some of the main points made by Mr Remarque, who is today a U.S. citizen living in Switzerland:

"I am convinced that the old nazi spirit no longer exists, but sparks are still glowing here and there, and they must be trodden out in time. What I cannot understand is that people (in West Germany, ed.) have become so falsely touchy about the frightful things which happened in the past. People are so touchy in Germany today, that if you dare to cough, people think it is an anti-German cough.

"When I returned to Germany for the first time in 1948, I always heard people saying 'Poor Germany'. Nobody ever said 'Poor Rotterdam, Poor Coventry, Poor Lidice'. I naturally understand that anybody who is in the mire wants to get out. My attitude towards Germany is as positive as it ever was; that does not mean, however, that I can accept everything which happens there.

"On the contrary: if you really love a country, you want to be able to respect it. You want to criticise, reform, improve. In this sense I simply cannot grasp how it is that today, once again, old nazi criminals are allowed to hold leading positions in industry, politics and the courts. I am very upset by the reluctance to extirpate these people. It is no good burying old filth; it always starts to stink again.

"Every few weeks I read of a scandal of this sort. This arouses mistrust abroad. It is possible to believe that Germany could not revolt under the nazis; but it is impossible to understand that those who besmirched the name of Germany should be treated with such love, that they should be protected and concealed ...

"Just because I love this country I have to say that one cannot liquidate the past by sparing the criminals and regarding their crimes as trifles. If a criminal is allowed to go free he can become a pattern for others ...

"I used to be a teacher. As an old teacher I have, since 1948, acquired German schoolbooks. I find that they say far too little about the things which happened then. That is one of the many reasons why I always write about the old Germany. Since I love the country I want its young people to know the truth."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Some observers in Bonn — not the terribly serious ones — are suggesting that Adenauer picked his new cabinet (changes noted inside this issue) with a winkle pin, rather than by any of the more orthodox methods.

These observers suggest that Uncle Konrad did the whole thing on the basis of alphabetical lists prepared by his advisers; he read the list of candidates for office from top to bottom, tiring when he reached the letter N: this explains why all the new ministers come from the top half of the alphabet. Then he read the list of the old cabinet from the bottom, wielding a blue pencil, which explains why all the sacked ministers, with the exception of one, have names which come far down the list.

I accept no responsibility for this theory, but it is as good an explanation as any for the motley rag-bag which Adenauer has presented as a cabinet.

Tactless

On another page we give the news of the indefinite adjournment of the West German trial aimed at banning the VVN, the Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime. Many western newspapers commented on the extraordinary tactlessness of the West German authorities in entrusting the trial to a judge who had been a nazi, and asked how this had been possible. The answer is quite simple. Mental renazification has gone so far in West Germany that the authorities simply fail to grasp that such a step will stagger world opinion.

Incidentally, we should like to thank all readers who, by their protest against the trial of the VVN, played a part in getting the trial postponed at least.

Hush-hush

That excellent magazine, the New York "Nation", which I realise to my ageing horror I have been reading regularly for 35 years, provides us on November 17th with an interesting sidelight on thinking in the US Pentagon. Commenting on two new US TV series called "Combat" and "The Gallant Men", dealing with GIs in World War Two, "Nation" notes: "The army, which provides technical advice for Combat and The Gallant Men, has insisted, in the words of Combat's producer, that nothing be shown 'about the sadistic German SS. The army has asked us to go out of our way to show that the Germans were extremely capable soldiers and fighters.' The producer supposes that the reason for this 'is to refrain from insulting the West Germans who might be fighting on our side if there is another war'."

Every nation, as the saying goes, gets the government it deserves: it also seems to get the allies that it deserves.

Clutter

I have a terrible weakness for odd facts, which probably just clutter up my brain, but here is one which I feel I must pass on. If you should wish to consult books on upholstery in the huge State Library in East Berlin, you would search in vain in the antiquated index under such likely titles as "Handicrafts" or "Furnishing". You would find the titles of the books you needed under "The Anatomy of the Horse". It took me quite a long time to puzzle out why. A clue is given at the end of this notebook.

I am glad to be able to tell you that the library authorities are now embarking on the gigantic job of compiling new subject catalogues which will free library users from the necessity of performing such far-out mental gymnastics. Incidentally, while this old catalogue lists all books on women under the general heading "Psychology", it lists books on men under the heading "Politics".

I am indebted for these rather far-out facts to an article by Walter Oehme in "Neue Deutsche Literatur", literary monthly published by the German Writers' Union of the GDR. And I should not really knock the State Library, which has always been very helpful when we want to look up some obscure historical point.

More Clutter

As usual at the end of the year, I have been looking through the mounds of paper and pamphlets which seem to accumulate in our office. We still have a number of copies of the book "From Ribbentrop to Adenauer", which gives valuable biographical material on the nazi past of West German diplomats, and we shall be glad to send you a free copy as long as supplies last.

In addition, we have varying quantities of back numbers of "German Report". If a single copy is missing from your files, or if you would like a small bundle to hand out as samples to people who might be interested in the paper, drop us a line.

Holidays

For what are generally sweepingly known as "technical reasons", the next issue of GERMAN REPORT, the first one in 1963, will be published on January 11th, and not on January 4th, as it should be if we stuck rigidly to our fortnightly schedule.

The technical reason in this case is quite simple: Christmas and New Year fall so awkwardly this year that there are very few working days between December 22nd and January 2nd. To get GERMAN REPORT out on January 4th would either mean working through the holidays, which our printers would not, even if we felt like it, or doing nearly all the work two weeks in advance. We are taking the easy way out.

Four Letters

"Berlin Notebook" has noted in the past unfortunate names sometimes given to GDR products; that is to say names which would be unfortunate if the product in question was ever exported to English-speaking countries. Hitherto our star exhibit has been a brand of cigarettes called "Muck"; but the electronic wizards of the GDR have now left that name far in the shade. They have turned out a TV camera which, if it ever reaches a country where English is spoken, will undoubtedly become known as the Lady Chatterley.

(Clue to the library index puzzle: horsehair.)

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